

26 February 1965

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State Department review
completed

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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C O N T E N T S

1. Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 1)

[REDACTED]

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3. Ghana: Major internal crisis may be developing.
(Page 3)

[REDACTED]

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5. Notes: Cuba; Guatemala; OAU-Congo;

[REDACTED]

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*Vietnam: No unusual Chinese Communist or North Vietnamese military deployments have been detected in the past 24 hours.

However, preliminary analysis of [] photography reveals that a new airfield is under construction near Son Tay, some 25 miles west of Hanoi and 22 miles from the recently completed Phuc Yen airfield. An area some 7,000 feet long has been cleared, and it appears that the runway may be extended even further. This is the third major airfield detected under construction in the South China-North Vietnam area in the last five months. The other two are in China, at Ningming, some 20 miles from the DRV border and at Pingyuan, some 30 miles northeast of Mengtzu.

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Soviet representatives continue their efforts to influence the US attitude toward Vietnam. During a 23 February reception in Moscow, high-level Soviet military officials expressed the hope that the Vietnam issue will not be the cause of a breakdown in bilateral relations. Some of these officials also took the line that the US must be prepared to negotiate a settlement in Vietnam.

[There has been no apparent shift in Peiping's attitude toward the Vietnamese situation. Chinese Ambassador Wang was predictably unyielding during his 24 February talk in Warsaw with US Ambassador Cabot. Wang reiterated that the only way out for the US is to "withdraw and let the people of Indochina settle their own problems."]'

[With General Khanh off to his "exile" as South Vietnamese roving ambassador, General Thi, a key

figure in the quelling of last week's coup attempt,
is taking steps to consolidate his power position.

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Viet Cong activity continues at the same relatively
intensive pace of recent days.

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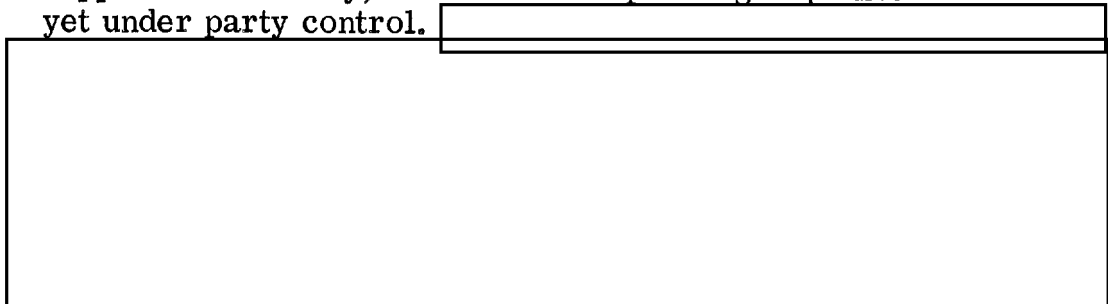
Ghana: A major internal crisis, possibly involving a coup attempt against President Nkrumah, may be developing.

The US Embassy in Accra believes that Nkrumah, who has been in isolation in western Ghana for nearly two weeks, may soon face his most serious crisis of public confidence since independence in 1957. The death in prison early this month of a prominent opposition leader has aroused the educated public, and Nkrumah's destruction of Ghana's once independent judiciary has been pointed up by the recent retrial and conviction of three persons originally acquitted of treason charges in 1963. Recent sharp criticism of Ghana by other West African states has also had internal repercussions.

At the same time the economic situation has deteriorated to the extent that ranking Ghanaian officials believe that neither East nor West will bail Ghana out. The real income of Ghanaian workers has been declining, and the forthcoming imposition of a social security tax may be the last straw in a series of unpopular government measures.

Coup rumors have reached an unprecedented level according to the embassy, and many well-informed Ghanaians now expect, rather than merely hope for, an early change.

Inasmuch as the police have been disarmed for over a year, any move to oust Nkrumah would require the support of the army, one of the few power groups not yet under party control.

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NOTES

Cuba: [REDACTED]

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shows that the surface-to-air missile (SAM) site at Mata has been vacated, the third SAM site abandoned since the beginning of the year. Previously, new sites have been established to replace those abandoned in a realignment from area coverage to point defense. No new sites have been identified, however, since these three were abandoned. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Guatemala: The sudden imposition of a state of siege on 24 February may presage a move by the Peralta regime to prolong its stay in power. Two bold terrorist attacks against military personnel in Guatemala City last week provided the pretext for Wednesday's action, but the US Embassy doubts that the government has significantly enhanced its ability to deal with terrorism by declaring a state of siege. It notes, on the other hand, that the declaration supports other indications that Peralta wants to stretch out the schedule for restoring constitutional government which is presently geared to a presidential election next fall. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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OAU-Congo: The OAU foreign ministers' meeting scheduled to begin in Nairobi today seems almost certain to produce a sharp clash between African moderates and radicals over the Congo. Nigeria, Ethiopia, and other moderates appear more determined than in the past to prevent the radicals from advancing the interests of the Congolese rebels. Feelings are currently running so high that a formal split could develop, although a more likely result would be another resolution papering over differences and authorizing a new OAU attempt to promote internal and external "reconciliation" in the Congo area.

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